GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Andhra Pradesh Forest Department – Departmental proceedings initiated against Sri M. Naga Raja, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier FRO, Atmakur Range of Nellore under Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (CC&A) Rules, 1991 – Punishment of "10% cut in pension for a period of Five (5) years besides recovery of Rs.4,61,987/-"(Rupees Four lakh Sixty one thousand Nine hundred and Eighty seven only)– Imposed – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIECNE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.59 **Dated.30.08.2023.**

Read the following:-

1. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, letter Ref.No.111/2019/A&DC-2, dated 14.04.2022.
2. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, letter Ref.no.111/2019/A&DC-2, dated 21.10.2022.
3. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, letter Ref.No.111/2019/A&DC-2, dated 27.02.2023.
4. Memo.No.971/Sec.IV/A2/2022, EFS&T (Sec.IV) dated 22.04.2023.
5. From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur, letter Ref.No.111/2019/A&DC-2, dated 25.06.2023.
6. From the Secretary, APPSC, Vijayawada, File.No.GAD03-APPS0DCC/70/2023-DC.SEC-APPSC (Computer No.2144774), dated 09.08.2023.

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ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., has informed that the following Articles of Charges were issued to Sri M. Naga Raja, FRO, earlier worked as FRO, Atmakur Range of Nellore Division by the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur in Ref.No.111/2019/Vig-1, dated 31.01.2019, under Rule 20 of A.P.C.S. (CC & A) Rules, 1991:-

Article-1: "That Sri M. Nagaraja, Forest Range Officer while working in Atmakur Range has exhibited gross neglect of duty, non-supervision and improper maintenance of works resulting total failure of (3) plantations at Chabolu & Indiranagar thereby causing loss to the Government to a tune of Rs.18,77,745/- and violated Rule 3 of A.P.C.S(Conduct) Rules, 1964".

Article-2: "That Sri M. Nagaraja, Forest Range Officer has shown criminal negligence and suppressed the facts to the higher officers and failed to safeguard the Government property entrusted to his charge thereby violated Section 151 of A.P. Forest Department Code Volume-I".

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of the AoC on 11.03.2019 and submitted his written defence statement on 15.06.2020. The PCCF & HoFF has appointed the Conservator of Forests, Guntur Circle as Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Guntur as Presenting Officer in Proc.No.111/2019/Vig-1(i&ii), dated 12.10.2021, for conducting the regular enquiry.

3. The Inquiry Officer & Conservator of Forests, Guntur has completed the Inquiry and submitted his findings in Rc.No.4132/2018/M3, dated 10.02.2022, wherein the Inquiry Officer has concluded as follows:-

Findings:-"After going through the material records, statements and oral evidence adduced before me the following is my final conclusion on the Charge leveled against the Charged Officer. **The Charge is proved**.

4. The findings of the Inquiry Officer were communicated to the Charged Officer vide PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Guntur Ref.No.111/2019/A&DC-2, dated 21.02.2022, for submission of further defence. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of Final Notice on 03.03.2022 and submitted his further defence statement on 07.03.2022, wherein the Charged Officer has not put forth any valid points.

P.T.O.

5. The Charged Officer has retired from Government Service on attaining the age of superannuation on 30.04.2021. Hence, disciplinary proceedings are continued, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

6. On examination of the issue, it has been provisionally decided to impose a penalty of "10% cut in pension for a period of (5) years", besides recovery of Rs.4,61,987/-" against Sri M. Naga Raja, FRO (Retd.), earlier worked as FRO, Atmakur Range of Nellore, under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980. Accordingly, in the Memo 4th read above show-cause notice has been issued to Sri M. Naga Raja, FRO (Retd.), earlier worked as FRO, Atmakur Range of Nellore on the proposed punishment.The charged officer acknowledged the receipt of the Memo on 19.06.2023 and submitted his explanation on 19.06.2023 wherein he did not submit any new/valid points to consider his explanation.

7. After careful examination of the entire issue, Government have decided to confirm the provisional decision to impose a punishment of "10% cut in pension for a period of (5) years", besides recovery of Rs.4,61,987/-"against Sri M. Naga Raja, FRO (Retd.), earlier worked as FRO, Atmakur Range of Nellore, under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules 1980.

8. On communication, in the letter 6th read above, the Secretary, APPSC, Vijayawada has informed that commission agreed with the proposal of Government impose a penalty of "10% cut in pension for a period of Five (5) years besides recovery of Rs.4,61,987/- "against Sri M. Naga Raja, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier FRO, Atmakur Range of Nellore Circle and advised accordingly.

9. After careful examination of the entire matter, Government hereby order to impose a punishment of "10% cut in pension for a period of Five (5) years besides recovery of Rs.4,61,987/- "(Rupees Four lakh Sixty one thousand Nine hundred and Eighty seven only)" against Sri M. Naga Raja, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier FRO, Atmakur Range of Nellore Circle under Rule 9 of A.P.R.P Rules 1980.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri, shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NEERABH KUMAR PRASAD
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
Sri M. Naga Raja, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier FRO, Atmakur Range of Nellore Circle (through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri)
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., Guntur. (w.e)
(Connected record File.No.4132/2018/M3, pages 1-413).

Copy to:
The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
The Director of Treasuries & Accounts, Ibrahimpatnam, Vijayawada.
The Secretary, A.P. Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The OSD to M (Energy, EFS&T, Mines & Geology).
The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.
The PS to the Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Department.
SF/SC (Computer No.1722408)

//FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER

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